EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Attorney Kevin McKinley on 10/20/2010.

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below.

The application has been amended as follows:

a.   Claims 15-22 are canceled.

b.   Claim 13 has been amended as follows.

A tire vulcanizing method in a vertical vulcanizer wherein relative to a lower mold
containing a green tire, an upper mold arranged over the lower mold in axial
alignment with the same is lowered to combine the upper mold with the lower
mold; and wherein a pair of bladder operating sleeves are movable vertically and
respectively air-tightly bind upper and lower end ring portions of a bladder which
is expanded inside the green tire;

the method including the steps of:

providing a single centering shaft ~~independently of the pair of bladder operating
sleeves for displacing~~ that displaces the pair of bladder operating sleeves
~~minutely~~ within a horizontal plane when said centering shaft is inserted into the
pair of bladder operating sleeves;

making the single centering shaft pass through centers of the lower mold, the
upper mold, the green tire, the bladder and the pair of bladder operating sleeves
during a vulcanization by extending the single centering shaft from the upper
mold into the pair of bladder operating sleeves; and

performing the vulcanization processing with the single centering shaft centering
the
pair of bladder operating sleeves relative to the lower mold and the upper mold
through a ~~minute~~ displacement of the pair of bladder operating sleeves within the
horizontal plane.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 12-14 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the

indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art, considered individually and in

combination, fail to teach a tire vulcanizing method wherein a single centering shaft is provided and displaces the pair of bladder operating sleeves within a horizontal plane when said centering shaft is inserted into the pair of bladder operating sleeves; making the single centering shaft pass through centers of the lower mold, the upper mold, the green tire, the bladder and the pair of bladder operating sleeves during a vulcanization by extending the single centering shaft from the upper mold into the pair of bladder operating sleeves; and performing the vulcanization processing with the single centering shaft centering the pair of bladder operating sleeves relative to the lower mold and the upper mold through a displacement of the pair of bladder operating sleeves within the horizontal plane.

References of Interest

4.   Seko et al. (JP 2003-62832) and Babel (JP 49024286) are references of interest with regards to the claimed subject mater.

Conclusion

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAEED M. HUDA whose telephone number is 571.270.5514. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:30.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571.272.1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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